

The City of Hialeah  
Communications & Special Events Office  
20 East 6 Street  
Hialeah, Florida 33010  
Phone: 305.889.5701  
Fax: 305.888.8031



# Media Advisory

## CUBAN POET AND POLITICAL PRISONER VISITS HIALEAH

### Hialeah, Florida –

Mayor Julio Robaina, in his efforts to further expand his Cultural Initiative and bring more sophisticated arts and literature to the City, present an elegant poetry reading by renowned poet, Manuel Vazquez Portal. The poet and journalist will be at our Walker e-Library reading excerpts from his book: *Velo de cristal*, along with translator, Rachel Simon, reading from the English version of the book: *Cristal Veil*.

Manuel Vázquez Portal, a Cuban writer and poet was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature twice. In the period from 1984 to 1993 Vasquez won three official prizes before he was banned from the National Union of Writers because of his political beliefs. In 1998 he founded the “working group dignity”, an independent news agency which dedicates its work to primarily cultural and literary topics. During the wave of imprisonments, Vasquez was arrested on March 19, 2003, and sentenced to 18 years of prison for “endangerment of state independence” but was released in 2004 because of his critical health condition and now lives in exile.

Join us for an evening of culture as a living piece of Cuba’s history comes to Hialeah to share his poetic works and discuss his writing as one of Cuba’s most relevant and promising writers.

**When –** Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where –** Walker e-Library, 800 West 29 Street

**For more information, please contact the Communications & Special Events Department at 305-889-5701. For inquiries on event day, please contact 305-215-6204**